A

OSTSCRIPT

TO AN

ACCOUNT

OF A LATE

USTICATION

FROM

PETERHOUSE,

IN THE

IVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE.

LONDON:

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXVI.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A

POSTSCRIPT.

HAVE already given an account of my ruſti-
ation from Peterhouſe, and of the whole of
proceedings relative thereto, from Thurſday
th of January, when the riot was made at
Chriſtian's rooms, to Monday the 8th of Ja-
y, when I was acquainted with my ſentence:
ve alſo aſſigned reaſons (and reaſons which I
cannot appear inſufficient) for ſubmitting my
to the conſideration of an unprejudiced pub-

lic: I ſhall therefore now, without any previ
apology, beg my Reader's attention to the follo
ing ſtate of facts.

On Wedneſday the 10th of January I left Pe
houſe in obedience to my ſentence, which fi
that day for the commencement of my puniſhm
I own that I was now reſolved to ſeek every l
redreſs in my power, for the injuries which I
received. It has, however, been determined (
happily for the learning of this kingdom!)
the Univerſities of England remain, under
ſanction of the Legiſlature, the gloomy aſyl
of arbitrary power; where, inſtead of the pro
tion of free and certain laws, are ſubſtituted
deciſions of men, equally prejudiced and un
trollable. The ears of the public were ſtill
to my complaints. The account of my ruſtica
was now nearly printed off, when by the u
pected arrival of a Friend in the Univerſity,
whole affair aſſumed a very different aſpect;
the voluntary aſſiſtance of this Gentleman ſee
to promiſe a ſpeedy and amicable concluſion
my diſagreeable buſineſs. In diſputes of this

ture the moſt ſerious conſequences too often originate from a reciprocation of trifling miſtakes: and a diſintereſted mediator generally has it in his power (if prejudice has not fixed its roots too deep) to ſettle affairs, by a timely removal of error, equally to the advantage and ſatisfaction of all parties. Convinced of this, my Friend, without any ſolicitation from me, waited on Mr. Borlaſe on Tueſday morning the 23d of January, with an intention to acquire a thorough knowledge of the caſe, which he imagined might beſt be collected from an impartial compariſon of facts. The reſult of this viſit was, that Mr. Borlaſe, inſiſting much upon the impoſſibility of a retraction on the part of the College, aſſured my Friend, that any offer of ſubmiſſion from me for my behaviour, which had been conſtrued diſreſpectful by the Maſter and Fellows, would meet with a candid reception from the Society, which was very well inclined to favour my reſtoration.

I was conſcious that I never had intentionally offered any diſreſpect to the Maſter and Fellows of Peterhouſe; yet as I found that the Society ſtill perſiſted

perſiſted to look upon ſome part of my behaviour (which however never has yet been ſpecified) in that light, I was willing to remove every ſhadow of diſreſpect on my part, and with the approbation of all my friends in the Univerſity, I delivered to Mr. Borlaſe,* at his rooms in Peterhouſe, on Wedneſday morning the 24th of January, the following epiſtle, deſiring that it might be laid before the Society as ſoon as convenient.

To the Maſter and Fellows of Peterhouſe.

I am ſorry that my behaviour has been conſtrued diſreſpectful, as it was not my intention to offer any diſreſpect to the Society of which I was lately a member, and to which I wiſh to be reſtored.

Jan. 24th, 1776.

ROBERT HOPPER.

On

* In a converſation which I now had with Mr. Borlaſe, I told him, that although an account of my ruſtication was printed, I would ſuppreſs the publication of it, 'till I received the anſwer of the ſociety, as I equally wiſhed to avoid the diſagreeable extremities of a *publication*, or a *law-ſuit*. Theſe words, as I afterwards underſtood, were conſidered as a *menace*, in which ſenſe they were certainly never ſpoken.

On Friday the 26th I again waited on Mr. Borlaſe, who now informed me that the Society had not come to any determination; but that the matter would be ſettled the next day. Mr. Borlaſe added, that if the Biſhop of Carliſle would accede to the opinion of the Fellows, there was not a doubt but that I ſhould be reſtored.‡ On Saturday I received the following letter.

SIR,

I am to acquaint you that the Society has come to no determination reſpecting your being reſtored to the College; but will determine that point ſometime before the diviſion of the preſent Term.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

GEO. BORLASE.

Peterhouſe,
Jan. 27, 1776.

This

‡ Is not this circumſtance a ſtrong confirmation of what I have before advanced, concerning the real origin of my perſecution? See an account of a late Ruſtication, pag. 20.

This letter needs no comment.—I immediately publiſhed my caſe:—for whatever right the Society of Peterhouſe might imagine it had to trifle (I might, perhaps, be juſtified in uſing a more harſh expreſſion) with me on this occaſion, I did not chooſe to take the ſame liberty with the public. I had made a promiſe;—and nothing but a reconciliation with the College could render the performance of that promiſe unneceſſary.

My Reader is now in poſſeſſion of a full and impartial ſtate of my caſe. The facts which I have produced are ſuch as the moſt ſubtle ingenuity cannot elude, nor the combined powers of falſhood overthrow. Upon the truth of theſe facts I reſt my cauſe: and I ſhall expect with patience the diviſion of the preſent term, which muſt bring along with it the final determination of the Society of Peterhouſe.

ROBERT HOPPER.

Feb. 5th, 1776.

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